

Stewardship

As a Junior Ranger, there are a lot of ways that **you** can protect the natural spaces we all share.

Choose at least one Stewardship Project from the list below to make a difference in the world and have an adult sign once you complete it.

Pick up and properly dispose of 5 pieces of trash (look around the playground, the trails, around the pool, and on the river banks).

Collect any recyclables that your family may have used during your stay and dispose of them properly in the recycle bins in the park (at the Visitor Center, Campground, and Dan River Boat Ramp).

Re-use something you have already used in a different way (maybe use a soda bottle as a water container, or use a grocery bag as a trash bag).

Give a brief ranger program to a friend or family member.

Your service project:

Adult's signature:

Staunton River State Park

Junior Ranger Activity Book



**VIRGINIA
STATE
PARKS**

This activity book belongs to:

Ranger Parker Red Fox

Give Ranger Parker Red Fox some color!

As a Junior Ranger, I pledge to:

- Preserve and protect our parks
- Care for my natural and historical surroundings
- Share what I have learned with others
- Obey all safety rules
- Continue to EXPLORE and DISCOVER OFTEN!



Discovery Hike

There are over 17 miles of hiking trails at Staunton River State Park for you and your family to enjoy. Hiking is a great way to explore the park and discover some of this state park's hidden treasures.

Lead your family on a "Discovery Hike." Grab a trail guide, choose one of the trails and become a guide for your family. Be sure to make several stops along the way. Ask your family, "What do you smell?" and "What do you hear?" and "What do you see?" Record the answers in the spaces below. Remember – Safety first. Be sure to take plenty of water and a first aid kit.

My Discovery Hike:

While on _____ Trail,

We observed:

We smelled:

We heard:

Welcome to Junior Rangers!

We're glad you are going to become a Jr. Ranger! Rangers are an important part of the Virginia State Park System. Some of the duties of Park Rangers are to protect the plants and animals, preserve the history of each park, share their knowledge with park guests, and to ensure the safety of every park guest.

To begin your adventure:

Raise your right hand and recite the Jr. Ranger Pledge.

Ages 5-8, complete 5 of the activities in this book

Ages 9-12, complete 8 of the activities

After completing your activities, you must hike one trail and complete one stewardship project.

Take your completed book to the Visitor Center to receive your Official Jr. Ranger Badge!

Bird Watching 101

Bird-watching is a popular pastime here at Staunton River State Park. Many different species of birds can be found here due to the nearby rivers and lake, as well as the different types of habitat in the park.

See if you can spot 4 of the birds pictured below. You may want to use binoculars to view birds from far away. Remember, a good Jr. Ranger doesn't disturb the wildlife. Instead, simply observe, enjoy, and move on.



Cardinal



Crow



Turkey



Blue Jay



Blue Bird



Great Blue Heron

Safety First

Junior Rangers need to be aware of potential dangers when exploring outdoors! Please read this page very carefully so you know what to look out for!

Poison Ivy

You might see poison ivy growing on the ground or up a tree trunk as a hairy vine. Each leaflet is made up of 3 leaves, and may have smooth or notched edges. When some people touch the plant they develop skin irritations. Leaves of 3, let them be!



Ticks

Look out for ticks when walking around outside! Ticks can make you very itchy and some of them carry diseases. If you do see a tick on you, let an adult know and they can help you remove them safely!



Deer Tick



American Dog Tick



Lone Star Tick



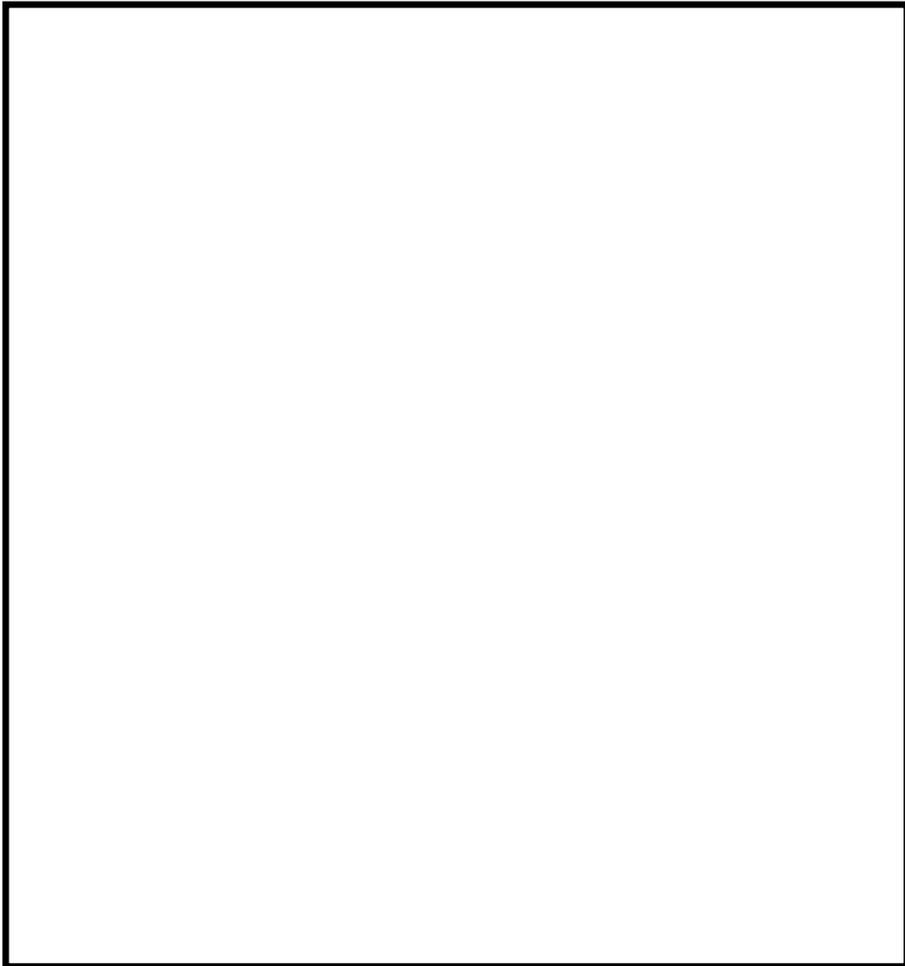
Northern Copperhead

Snakes

Most snakes in Virginia are harmless and very few are aggressive. The only venomous snake at Staunton River State Park is the Northern Copperhead. Look for a triangular shaped head, cat-like eyes, and hourglass patterns going down the center of its back. Copperheads are not aggressive. If you see one just back away from it and give it space.

Are You an Artist?

There are many activities to enjoy here at Staunton River State Park. Whether you enjoy fishing, boating, hiking, swimming, or watching wildlife, you can always find ways to have fun. Use the space below to draw a picture of your favorite activity here at Staunton River!



Plant Riddles

There are many different species of plants in Staunton River State Park. Each one serves a very special purpose. Some plants are food for animals, some are used as homes, some can be made into medicines, and some are even toxic or poisonous.

Read the clues for each plant and fill in the blanks. If you get stumped, use the code at the bottom of the page to help you out.

I am usually the first tree to bloom in the spring. I have bright reddish-pink flowers. Lots of people plant me in their yards because of my beauty. What am I?

— — — — —
5 18 17 15 8 17

Turkeys commonly spend the night in my branches. I stay green all year long. Animals eat the seeds from my cones, and I am commonly grown for my timber. What am I?

— — — — —
3 22 1 18 7 5 18 18

I am a pretty purple flower that you can usually find in a grassy field in the spring. I am full of Vitamin C. Some people even name their daughters after me! What am I?

— — — — —
9 22 2 25 18 7

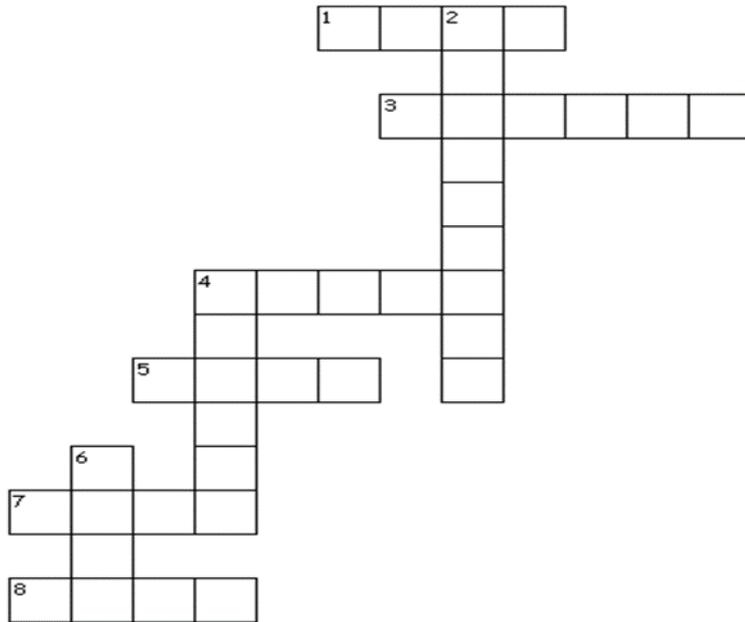
I am a small green plant whose leaves deer love to eat. I can be found in many of the fields here in the park. If you find me with 4 leaves, your luck just might change! What am I?

— — — — —
16 25 2 9 18 5

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Animal Crossword

Use the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle about the many different animals of Staunton River State Park!



Across

- The Staunton River and Dan Rivers are full of this animal
- Large bird that makes a "gobble" sound
- Reptile that slithers along the ground
- These animals fly all around Staunton River State Park
- Large mammal, black in color. Yogi was one
- Large mammal, black in color. Yogi was one
- Amphibian that "ribbets" on the river banks

Down

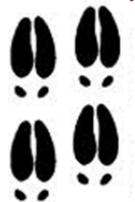
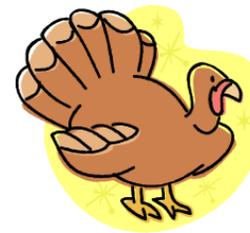
- Animal that climbs trees and stores acorns for the winter
- Insect with 8 legs that makes webs
- Animal commonly seen in fields in the evening, adult males have antlers

Animal Tracks

Animal tracks are easy to find here at Staunton River State Park, especially after snow or rain, or in popular feeding spots. Next time you're out on a hike, look around for clues animals leave behind. You never know who has travelled on a trail before you!

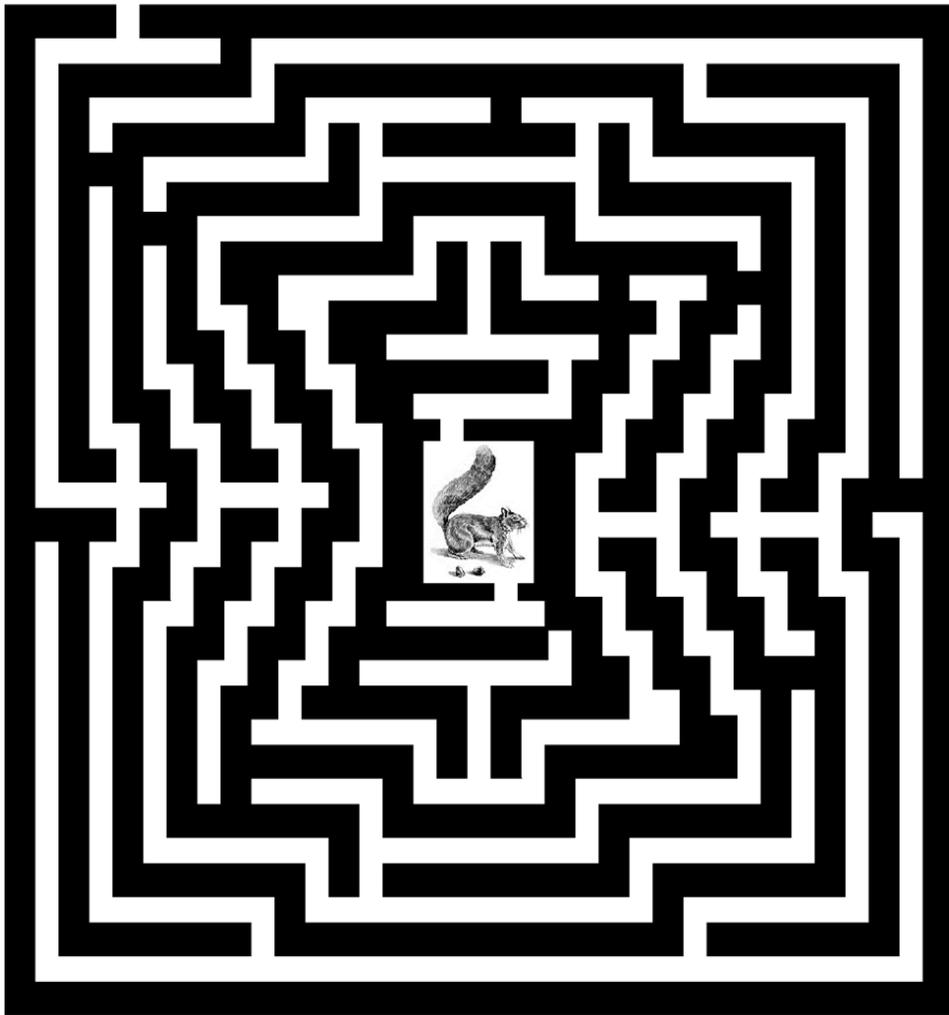
Park Rangers pay attention to these clues so that they can conserve the habitats for the animals in the park.

Match the tracks to the animal that left them behind.



Crazy Maze

Help Mama Squirrel find her baby!



Two Rivers Run Around It

Find the words below that pertain to the waters surrounding

R E V I R N O T N U A T S N L
 X N O J R U C Q S L M B R K S
 Z M E X J V G N I H S I F S K
 N O T N U A T S T P A C A Z O
 H C L H Z O W G N Z A B A B C
 F M G J B G J C A D H M U T R
 B A K P R O P S A T W G X N W
 E D X D H O I C U T G C L I U
 F R B I A Y G O C S F C L O U
 X R V F I N M N I N J I V P V
 Z E A F S E R S I H O A S E F
 Q K L C G Q L I A T P Z E H A
 D C N R V A N T V G A P M T U
 D R A D N K B X G E Y O Y C S
 S L N D Q J V U O N R L B Z W

Staunton River

Dan River

Capt. Staunton

Buggs Island

Kerr Dam

Boating

Fishing

Catfish

Largemouth Bass

The Point

Coyote Word Search

W Y Y C E T G C U M S D T T Y R T D T N
 J X X X D C Y J K Q M I X B R S A B W U
 A Q P I Q K S Z Y Z X Z K T L X D B A Z
 S G A J R K Z U U V F N M L X L D P E K
 D B P Z X J Y H P F D P E L T B D R E A
 J T Z U P Q R S U B O M N I V O R E A U
 V P S J V U R A P K U C A N I N E W M C
 H V W Z J W C L S W W C U V A K S B E U
 D Q X N L M Q Y P E B I X C B L L B R U
 J L D F X X T E R R I T O R Y K N A I P
 A M E O V P R Q R X Q O A Y I A D J C B
 C D G S F K P O B U Q Z N N H U N T A J
 K D D R F E O D W J A C L M D I C O N C
 E D P D N Z G H Q M A M M A L D O G F C
 L K R E M K H Q V Y K R Y J B D T U Q A
 F B E N S M O Y R D J L R V I P P A C K
 G C S G H J W U W M K D M Z E Z I F E G
 E G Y R W F U Y X A A R M Y L D J Y B S

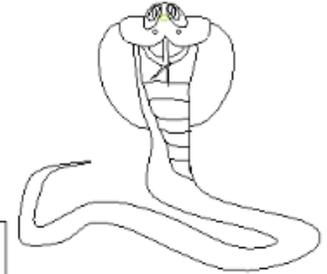
canine
 jackel
 pelt
 pack

American
 dog
 hunt
 den

pups
 territory
 mammal
 omnivore

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Slithering Snakes Anagram



Word List: scales, reptile, poison, Cold-blooded, constrictor, fangs, slither, venom, prey, cobra, kill

nsrrtiococt _____

klil _____

nosioP _____

ritepel _____

mnveo _____

repy _____

lcod-odelobd _____

gasnf _____

crabo _____

ssalec _____

hilstre _____